

Central Intelligence Agency

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Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

Ind. Angleton
OLC # 18 4880

20 SEP 1978

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Mr. James J. Angleton

Dear Mr. Angleton:

Since you have informed the Agency that you are scheduled to appear before the House Select Committee on Assassinations in executive session on 21 September, I wish to take this opportunity to inform you of the Agency position on testimony by former Agency personnel before the HSCA with regard to classified matters relating to the Committee's investigative charter.

On 23 March 1978 I provided Chairman Stokes with a letter outlining the considerations affecting classified testimony to the Committee by present or former Agency personnel. A copy of this letter is enclosed. By agreement the Committee has made a practice of showing a copy of the letter to employees, constituting in effect a waiver of their secrecy oath for purposes of testifying under classified conditions. The Committee is to protect this testimony under the terms of its agreements with the Agency.

Obviously we cannot anticipate special security issues that may prove troublesome in your mind. While I hope that the enclosed letter is sufficient for the purposes of your testimony, should questions arise on specific security issues please feel free to contact Scott Breckinridge, who, I understand, is known to you; he will undertake to get the answers to such questions if they arise.

I appreciate your assistance in this investigation.

Sincerely,

/s/ Frank C. Carlucci

Frank C. Carlucci

Enclosure

OGC:JKG:1sh

Original - addressee w/enc.

1 - DDCI

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23 March 1978

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Honorable Louis Stokes, Chairman
Select Committee on Assassinations
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I know that you are familiar with our practice of executing secrecy agreements with individuals (1) to whom we provide access to classified information and information of an intelligence sources and methods nature, which I am charged by law to protect from unauthorized disclosure, (2) otherwise perform services for or are engaged by the Agency. Such agreements are in force even after the relationship with this Agency has been terminated. As you are aware, the inhibitions created by these Agency secrecy agreements exist solely for the purpose of assuring that classified information is imparted only to authorized recipients.

As Admiral Turner has assured you previously, it is his desire to cooperate fully with your Committee. It is in this spirit that I am interested in assuring that such secrecy agreements do not impair access by your Committee to information within the scope of your charter. Therefore, we have determined that disclosure of otherwise protected information to the Select Committee or its designated staff members will constitute authorized provision of information within the meaning of such secrecy agreements. This letter may be used to indicate authorization to any individual who has executed a secrecy agreement with this Agency, or who may otherwise consider themselves bound by an obligation of secrecy to this Agency, to furnish to the Select Committee information within the scope and jurisdiction defined by H. Res. 222.

I appreciate the extra precautions taken by the Committee to insure against the inadvertent risk of disclosure of those few exceptionally sensitive matters involving the safety and well-being of individuals, and the protection of covert sources and operational methods not falling within the scope of


Res. 222. I understand that Committee staff members will be expected to be circumspect in the conduct of their interviews and during hearings to avoid the risk of inadvertent disclosures and to provide the affected person with the opportunity to receive guidance from me or my designees on the applicability of this authorization to particular questions which are asked.

I believe these arrangements meet our mutual interests in assuring that all persons respond fully and truthfully in providing testimony to your Committee. Please indicate by your counter-signature on this letter if it is acceptable to you.

Sincerely,



Frank C. Carnucci
Acting Director



Honorable Louis Stokes, Chairman
Select Committee on Assassinations